



ROCKDALE COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
August 14, 2020**

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Rockdale County Juvenile Court Judge Maureen Wood Appointed for Second Term

ROCKDALE COUNTY, Ga. – Chief Judge David B. Irwin announced Friday the appointment of Maureen E. Wood to her second term as the Juvenile Court Judge effective October 1, 2020.

During her first term, Judge Wood has continued the expansion of Rehabilitative Court Services and has added two accountability courts: Family Treatment Court and Resource Court (Juvenile Mental Health Court). Under Judge Wood's direction, the Court's Children in Need of Services (CHINS) protocol was re-written to ensure that the court is following 2014 code changes. These changes allow CHINS youth (status offenders) to be placed under informal agreements that connect the youth and family with community services and providers, instead of being subjected to formal court orders, incarceration or probation.

She has created the Project GLOW (Girls Learning Our Worth) group: a 12-week program for medium and high-risk girls. The program utilizes an evidence-based curriculum along with educational field trips and sessions from community leaders. She expanded the programming offered at the Evening Reporting Center and now, along with the evening programming, they offer daytime programming and supervision for probated youth who have been suspended from school (short term), dropped out, or have been expelled from school. She implemented the SOAR program (Safety Outreach Assistance Referrals for CSEC [Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children] youth), where court involved youth who are suspected victims of human sex trafficking are identified, staffed monthly, referred for screening, tested for sexually transmitted infections, and connected with an individual therapist who delivers trauma based cognitive behavioral therapy. She re-vamped the mentoring program with the end-goal of identifying and training enough community members so that every court involved youth can be connected with a mentor.

Additionally, she has expanded the community service offerings so that in addition to traditional trash pick-up, the youth are now serving at a local food bank where they are able to assist many of the food insecure members of our community by re-stocking shelves and carrying groceries to vehicles.

Judge Wood has served on the Council of Juvenile Court Judges Executive Committee as District 4 representative for 2018 and 2019. In 2019 and 2020, she was chosen to represent the Juvenile Court Judges on the Supreme Court Judicial Council's Ad Hoc Committee to Prevent Sexual Harassment in the Judicial Branch of Government, as well as the Administrative office of Courts Access to Justice Committee, and was recently selected to represent the Juvenile Court Judges on the Supreme Court Judicial Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Cybersecurity.

Judge Wood and her family, David Wood and her 3 daughters are active members of the Rockdale community and she enjoys speaking at local elementary, middle and high school programs.

For more information, please contact Susan Simons at susan.simons@rockdalecountyga.gov or at 770-278-7741.

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